

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-11. (cancelled)

12. (new) A lithographic printing plate precursor, comprising on a substrate, a lipophilic layer containing a crosslinked product that has a heat decomposable group that is an azo, diazo, dioxy, disulfide, hydrazide, nitro, onium salt, sulfonic ester, disulfonyl, or thiosulfonic group on the main chain, said crosslinked product having been obtained by crosslinking a polymer having a crosslinkable functional group with a cross-linking agent, the printing plate precursor further comprising a hydrophilic layer between said substrate and said lipophilic layer, said printing plate precursor also containing a photo-to-heat converting material either in said lipophilic layer or in said hydrophilic layer.

13. (new) The printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said heat decomposable group is an azo group.

14. (new) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said substrate has a hydrophilic surface.

15. (new) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said photo-to-heat converting material is a carbon black or an infrared absorbing dye.

16. (new) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said polymer having a heat decomposable group is used in combination with another thermally decomposable compound.

17. (new) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said hydrophilic layer comprises a polyvinyl alcohol and optionally an organic aluminum chelate compound.

18. (new) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 wherein said hydrophilic layer comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of said photo-to-heat converting material.

19. (new) A method for preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising:

exposing the lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 12 to IR radiation and removing the exposed part of said lipophilic layer.

20. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein said exposed part of said lipophilic layer is removed by laser-induced ablation.

21. (new) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

mounting the exposed lithographic printing plate precursor directly on a printer without developing.